

# Sta of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER Executive Director

JOHN R. BAZA Division Director

# **Inspection Report** Minerals Regulatory Program

Supervisor /

Weather: Mostly cloudy, 50's

Report Date October 21, 2005

Mine Name: Duke	Permit number: S/037/096
Operator Name: Ridgepoint Mining	<b>Inspection Date:</b> September 14.
•	2005
	<b>Time:</b> 8:30-9:15 AM
Inspector(s): Paul Baker	
Other Participants: Vern and Chance Shumway	

<b>Elements of Inspection</b>	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control			
4. Deleterious Material			
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)			
6. Concurrent Reclamation			
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads,			
highwalls, shafts, drill holes)			
8. Water Impoundments			
9. Soils			
10. Revegetation	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	
11. Air Quality			
12. Other			

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

Mine Status: Inactive

Vern Shumway had been contacted by the operator's representative about doing the reclamation work. The purpose was to discuss what work needed to be done and how it should be done.

### **Inspection Summary:**

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

The operator has a \$10,000 bond with SITLA and, at the time of the inspection, was wanting to reclaim the site and get the bond back. (Since then, I have had discussions with the operator's representative who expressed interest in trying once again to extract gold.) There are at least three possible land uses for this site. The first, which I discussed with Messrs. Shumway, is to return it to native vegetation. The others would be to level the area for agricultural use of to leave it with several bumps, as the site now is, for people to ride motorcycles and ATVs. There are some people living in a small community near the mine site, and they have expressed interest in these latter two uses. Will Stokes of SITLA indicated they would not object to an alternative land use like an ATV park.

2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)

The area is being used essentially as a racetrack or an ATV park, apparently by people living in the adjacent community. The operator created several windrows and piles of sand which make the site more attractive than adjacent flat areas (Photos 3 and 4). While nothing the operator has done is extraordinarily hazardous—there are no highwalls or cuts—the operator may have some liability if someone was to be injured.

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### 10. Revegetation

I furnished the operator with a recommended seed mix which includes five species that should do well at this site. The soil in this area is very sandy.

Messrs. Shumway and I discussed different roughening and seeding methods. If they grade the site, they will probably use a dozer with rippers. I recommend broadcast seeding as soon as surface preparation is completed, but the area is level enough that seed could be drilled.

#### 12. Other

Reclamation to an agricultural use or to native vegetation would be relatively easy. The site simply needs to be leveled. If it is returned to native vegetation, some roughening should be done to capture water.

There is a frac tank on site (Photo 1), and if the site is reclaimed to an agricultural use, this tank might be used for storing irrigation water. This would need to be approved by SITLA.

Next to the mine site, there is an area used for disposing of garbage and/or storing scrap. It appears the community residents also burn some of their trash on the mine site (Photo 2).

I used a GPS unit to create a map of the disturbed area, and a copy of the map is attached to this report. The site is just under five acres.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The operator needs to determine the future of this site. If it is to be reclaimed, what will be the postmining land use? If the land use is something other than native vegetation, the operator needs to supply justification for this use and approval from SITLA.

Date: 5/3(0)

Inspector's Signature \_

PBB:jb

cc: Ridgepoint Mining

Will Stokes, SITLA

Attachment: GPS Map & Photos

## **ATTACHMENT**

# **Photographs**

S/037/096, Duke Mine, Ridgepoint Mining Company

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Photo 1. The frac tank.



Photo 2. There was some smoldering trash on the mine site.



Photo 3. A corner of the mine site being used as a racetrack.



Photo 4. The piles of sand the operator made add interest for ATV riders.

